(c) the present final picture in respect of the number of unemployed persons covered under this scheme, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps required for improvement in the implementation of NREGA in the States where the progress had been slow have been brought into the notice of the respective State Governments. Review meetings have been held by the senior officers to look into the difficulties being faced by such States. The State Governments have been requested to send their further requirement of funds for training activities in order to improve implementation of the NREGA.

(c) As per reports available upto 18th August, 2006, 24564480 job cards have been issued. 8266447 people have demanded employment under the Act out of which 7569039 persons have been provided employment.

Construction of pucca bridge in HP

2840. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bridge constructed by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, which links Nandia and other villages on Mathred river, is completely unsafe because it is a kutcha bridge;

(b) whether Government would instruct the State Government to construct a pucca bridge under Employment Assurance Scheme, so that thousands of villagers may get respite; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) As reported by the State Government the suspension bridge which links Nandia and other villages on Mathred river in Himachal Pradesh, is in good running condition.

(b) The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) has been merged with Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) with effect from 25.9.2001. Under SGRY, construction of bridge is a prohibitory work.

(c) Does not arise.